

(c) the cuts, if any, resorted to by Government and the State Government in respect of Taxes/Sales Taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) to (c) The Government had issued "Oil Companies (Non-Transferable) Special Government's Bonds-2005" totalling Rs. 12984 crores to the Oil Companies in March, 1998. No bonds have been issued after March, 1998. Effective 30.9.2000, custom duties on crude oil and petroleum products were reduced from 15% to 10% and 25% to 20% respectively.* Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas has appealed to the Chief Ministers of all the States to consider a *pro rata* reduction in sales tax on petroleum products so as to neutralize the impact of *ad valorem* sales tax on the revised prices of petroleum products effective 30.9.2000. The Govt. of Goa have reduced the sales tax rates on petrol and diesel by 3% effective 15.11.2000.

Discontinuance of work at Paradeep Oil Refinery

77. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the day-to-day work of Paradeep Oil Refinery Project has been discontinued;
- (b) if so, since when;
- (c) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has laid down certain conditions to continue the work;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, for competitiveness and viability of the project, Government of Orissa has been requested to provide sales tax incentives.

ITDC Hotels identified for disinvestment

78. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 26 ITDC hotels are identified for disinvestment;
- (b) if so, which are these hotels; and
- (c) what are the financial performance of these hotels including value of assets?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Government has accepted the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in regard to ITDC. So far as Hotel operations of ITDC are concerned, the main recommendations of the Commission are as under:—

- (i) Hotels situated in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore may be handed over to established hotel chains through a competitive bidding process to be run on a long term structured contract on lease-cum-management basis.
 - (ii) Other hotels may be de-merged into separate corporate identities and the disinvestment in the new companies will be through sale of 100% Government shareholdings in them.
- (b) Details of ITDC's 26 hotels are given in Statement (*see* below).